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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/15/2018

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR THANKS FOREIGN MINISTER FOR WORKING ON
PASSAGE OF OEF REFUELING BILL

REF: TOKYO 3403

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer; reasons 1.4 (b/d)

(C) The Ambassador expressed his appreciation for Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone's efforts toward the December 12 passage of the new legislation authorizing the extension of Japan's refueling mission in the Indian Ocean in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in a December 15 telephone call. The Ambassador said he is pleased that the legislation had been passed after long deliberations in the Diet, and that Japan's willingness to continue the refueling operations makes a huge difference in the international community's contribution to peace and stability in Afghanistan. Nakasone thanked the Ambassador for his leadership in engaging Diet members and galvanizing other diplomatic missions, including Pakistan's, to stress the importance of Japan's refueling mission. The continued refueling operations is an indication of Japan's commitment to the War Against Terror, Nakasone said.
SCHIEFFER